

Children Likely to be Better Adjusted in Joint VS Sole Custody Arrangements in Most Cases, According to Review of Research

(Living Situation Not As Influential As Time Spent With Parent) ...a meta-analysis of 33 studies between 1982 to 1999 that examined 1,846 sole-custody and 814 joint-custody children. The studies compared child adjustment in joint physical or joint legal custody with sole-custody settings and 251 intact families.

<http://www.apa.org/releases/custody2.htm>

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"Children in joint custody arrangements had less behavior and emotional problems, had higher self-esteem, better family relations and school performance than children in sole custody arrangements. And these children were as well-adjusted as intact family children on the same measures, said Bauserman, "probably because joint custody provides the child with an opportunity to have ongoing contact with both parents."

Article: "Child Adjustment in Joint-Custody Versus Sole-Custody Arrangements: A Meta-Analytic Review," Robert Bauserman, Ph.D., AIDS Administration/Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; *Journal of Family Psychology*, Vol 16, No. 1.

Troxel v. Granville, 527 U.S. 1069 (1999) Justice O'Connor, speaking for the Court stated, "The Fourteenth Amendment provides that no State shall 'deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of the law.' We have long recognized that the Amendment's Due Process Clause like its Fifth Amendment counterpart, 'guarantees more than fair process.' The Clause includes a substantive component that 'provides heightened protection against governmental interference with certain fundamental rights and liberty interest' and 'the liberty interest of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children-is perhaps the oldest of the fundamental liberty interest recognized by this Court.'

IN MICHIGAN BOTH PARENTS MUST AGREE TO JOINT PHYSICAL CUSTODY. USUALLY A BITTER SPOUSE WILL NOT AGREE TO THIS BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT THEY KNOW WILL HURT THE OTHER SPOUSE THE MOST. ALSO, THE FRIEND OF THE COURT, AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE, DOES NOT RECOMMEND JOINT CUSTODY OVER SOLE CUSTODY FOR THE MOTHER. THIS BITTER SPOUSE AND THE FOC DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT NEGATIVE EMOTIONAL IMPACT THIS WILL HAVE ON CHILDREN IN THE LONG RUN. THE SHARED PARENTING BILL HB5267 IS THE RIGHT AND THE NEED OF A CHILD! IT IS ALSO THE RIGHT OF A PARENT TO BE WITH THEIR CHILD AND THIS IS A PROTECTION CLEARLY STATED IN THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. IS IT NOT TIME WE UPDATE OUR ANTIQUATED CUSTODY LAWS?

Michigan House Bill 5267:

Will bring fairness to Michigan's antiquated child custody laws! Write your local Michigan State Representative now:

<http://house.michigan.gov/representatives.asp>

What Detroit News Readers Say About Joint Custody

The Detroit News October 31, 2004

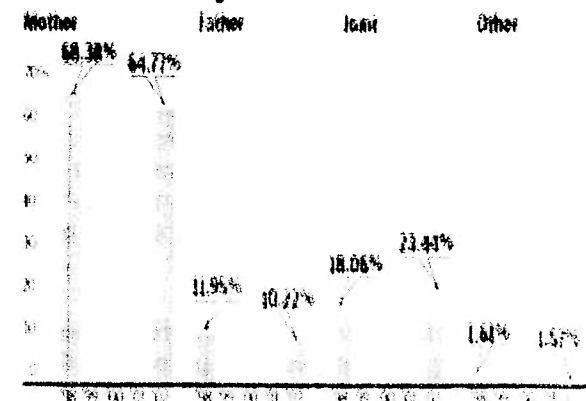
Detroit News Survey

For divorcing parents, should Michigan courts make equally shared custodial responsibility of children the standard?

Yes 86.50%

No 13.50%

Child custody awards in divorce



Source: Michigan Department of Community Health

10/31/04

Kelly, J. B. (2000). Children's adjustment in conflicted marriage and divorce: A decade review of research. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 39, 963-973.
"Joint custody led to better child outcomes overall." from [abstract](#)

See also

Kelly, J., Current research on children's postdivorce adjustment. *Family and Conciliation Courts Review*, 31.29-49, 1993

On child satisfaction: **"Children have expressed higher levels of satisfaction with joint physical custody than with sole custody arrangements;** citing the benefit of remaining close to both parents. Joint custody does not create confusion for the majority of youngsters about their living arrangements or about the finality of the divorce, nor does increase loyalty conflicts (Leupnitz, 1982; Shiller, 1986a, 1986b; Steinman, 1981)."

On parent satisfaction: "A surprising finding in one study was that **mothers who share custody are more satisfied than those having sole custody** and whose children see their father periodically. However, both groups expressed more satisfaction with their residential arrangement than did sole-custody mothers whose children had no paternal contact."

On conflict situations: **"Dual-residence (joint physical custody) parents had the highest co-operative-communication scores** but did not differ from mother custody or father custody parents in the

amount of discord. Shared residence did not exacerbate or diminish conflict but did appear to lead to more co-operative communication."

On child adjustment: "The adjustment of 517 adolescents (aged 10 years, 6 months to 18 years) in three residential arrangements was compared 4.5 years after separation by Buchanan, Maccoby, and Dornbusch (in press). Looking at both family process and status variables, these researchers assessed adolescent adjustment in terms of depression, deviance, school effort, and school grades. Statistically, more boys were in dual-residence and father-residence arrangements, whereas more girls were in mother-residence arrangements. **Overall, dual-residence adolescents were better adjusted than were mother-residence adolescents.**"

Michigan House Bill 5267 will allow our state's children the opportunity to spend equal time with both fit parents. Michigan custody orders must bear sufficient respect for the constitutional protections inherent in the parent-child relationship. The best way to protect children from the stresses of parental divorce is to ensure a strong relationship with both parents (when both are fit) through a balanced, equal amount of time with both. This arrangement most closely mirrors an intact family, which both common sense and careful research shows is the best situation for children. This bill takes into account the families that would not be able maintain the

current school schedule of the children but still provides the children the benefit of both parents. It is in the best interest of all children to have substantially equal time with both parents. Please take the time to study the proposed legislation then contact your state politicians and inform them to champion this bill. The current laws are outdated and have caused nothing but harm to our society. Here are some sites to visit on the internet to further your knowledge.

<http://achildsright.net/>

<http://www.dadsofmichigan.org/>

<http://www.goerc.com/research/index.html>

<http://www.indianacrc.org> Civil rights law suits. County level Actions.

Father a Child's Right

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